Speed Claim

United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee

Easy Electronic Claims Filing for Everyone

Q. What is Speed Claim?

A. Written by the Systems Department in the Western District of Tennessee, Speed Claim is an add-on module for the bankruptcy ECF system that eliminates the redundancy in data input when preparing and filing bankruptcy electronic claims.

Q. Why should I use Speed Claim? Doesn't CM/ECF 3.0 support better electronic claims filing?

A. Yes it does. However, creditors need to have an in-house capability to work with XML files and ZIP files in order to take advantage of ECF 3.0's bulk claims filing features. This will more than likely only exist with larger creditor filers. Speed Claim is not intended to replace the CM/ECF 3.0 bulk claim feature; it works independently alongside that module to ensure that all claims filers are able to make electronic claims filing as simple as possible.

O. What is so redundant about the normal, non-bulk method of filing electronic claims?

A. After obtaining a limited access login, the filer must obtain a blank B-10 PDF form, fill in the required information, save the PDF file, login to the ECF database, re-enter much of the same information already supplied in the previously saved PDF file, then attach the PDF file. Is there any wonder that many claims filers simply continue to mail in B-10 forms to Clerk's Offices?

Q. How does Speed Claim make the process easier for the filer?

A. With Speed Claim, there is no additional software required by the filer that does not need supporting documentation - not even Adobe Acrobat! (See below question on supporting documentation) The filer simply logs in to ECF, goes to the Speed Claim link on the 'Bankruptcy' menu, enters the claim information in an html facsimile of the B-10 form, supplies their e-mail address and the process is done.

Q. Is there a Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) generated by Speed Claim?

A. Not as such. However, when the filer clicks 'submit', Speed Claim enters the user supplied data into the ECF Claims Register and then e-mails a PDF B-10 form with the users 'conformed' signature (/s/ user name) and attaches a copy of that B-10 PDF to the entry in the Claims Register. The e-mail with the attached B-10 form serves as the filer's confirmation that the claim has been properly processed and entered into the Claims Register.

Q. How do I use Speed Claim?

A. It's under the 'Bankruptcy' menu of ECF. Simply click on 'File Claims' and you are presented with the conventional claims filing option, as well as the Speed Claim options.

Q. When will Speed Claim support attachments for supporting documentation?

A. Speed Claim supports filing either with or without supporting documentation attachments. You may also wish to discuss supporting documents - or the lack thereof - with your judges and trustees. We have been surprised by just how many cases there were in which supporting documents were never used or requested - even when supplied by the claims filer.